

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-43 are pending in the present application.

Restriction of Claims

Applicants hereby elect with traverse the claims of Group I (claims 1-31) drawn to a nanofiber comprising a first polymer and a biological material in which the nanofiber has a plurality of nanopores.

The foregoing election is made with traverse, as the five groups set forth by the Examiner all stem from a common concept and theory, and thus are related. As such, prosecution of the claims of Groups I-V would not place a substantially greater burden on the Examiner. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the inventions claimed in the Groups designated by the Examiner are all related in that they share a common underlying structural feature of a nanofiber, which forms the basic structural unit for all the claimed compositions of Groups I-V. Thus, the membrane of Group II, the fabric of Group III, the aqueous solution insoluble nanofiber of Group IV, and the organic solution insoluble nanofiber of Group V all comprise a nanofiber, such as that recited in claims 1-31 of Group I. As described in the specification (*see, e.g.*, paragraphs [0052] and [0053]), the membrane of Group II refers to a collection of nanofibers in sheet or layer form, and the fabric of Group III refers to a pliable material made up of nanofibers. Thus, the compositions of Groups II and III are higher order structures having nanofibers as their underlying structural units. The insoluble nanofibers of Groups IV and V refer to nanofibers that do not dissolve or lose their three-dimensional structure when contacted with a solution. (*See, e.g.*, the specification at paragraph [0051]). Thus, the claims of Groups I-III and Groups IV-V differ in solubility characteristics, but are otherwise structurally related by being comprised of nanofibers. The primary difference between the claims of Groups IV and V is insolubility in aqueous versus organic solutions.

As discussed above, the claims of Groups I-V are all related by a common underlying structural element, a nanofiber. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Restriction Requirement and consider all the claims together in the

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PATENT

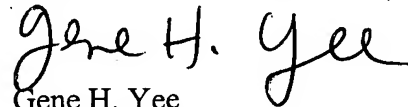
present application. In the event that all the claims are not recombined, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner recombine the claims of Groups I-III for examination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, examination at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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